

INFORMATION SHEET

THE HUBERT H. HUMPHREY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

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Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

What is this program?

This is a nine month exchange program in the United States for mid-level professionals who have potential to move into leadership positions in the public or private sector. This program offers an opportunity to develop one's leadership skills and learn the most recent advances in their particular field. Fellows spend approximately nine months in the U.S. taking graduate-level courses at a U.S. university, participating in long term leadership development programs and engaging with professional peers from around the world in non-academic professional development activities. **This is not an academic degree program.** The goal is general professional development. Candidates must already have an undergraduate university degree, at least five years of professional experience, and be proficient in English (with a TOEFL score of at least 500). The funding covers the cost of tuition and university fees, a monthly maintenance allowance, a book and supplies allowance, round-trip transportation from Burkina Faso to the host university in the U.S., and transportation to Washington, D.C. for a special seminar.

What kinds of professionals are eligible to apply?

Mid-career professionals who work in the following fields in either the public or private sector is eligible to apply:

- Communications/Journalism
- Natural Resources and Environmental Management
- Public Policy Analysis and Public Administration
- Economic Development
- Agricultural Development/Agricultural Economics
- Finance and Banking
- Human Resource Management/Personnel
- Law, Civil Society, Human Rights, and Democratic Development
- Urban and Regional Planning
- Technology Policy and Management
- Educational Planning
- Public Health Policy and Management
- Drug Abuse Education, Prevention and Treatment

What are the minimum requirements?

Only applicants who meet the following minimum requirements can apply to the Public Affairs Section in the U.S. Embassy in Ouagadougou:

- Citizens or permanent residents of Burkina Faso;
- Persons who have a university degree awarded after at least four years of full-time study that would be sufficient to qualify the person to be admitted to a graduate study program at a university in the U.S.;
- Persons who will have at least **five years of professional work experience** prior to the commencement of their Fellowship and who desire to pursue study and professional development in the same field in which they have the five years of experience; and
- Persons who are proficient in both written and spoken English.
- Persons committed to returning to Burkina and developing their field.

Who are the most competitive applicants?

Anyone meeting the minimum requirements may apply. However, people who have the following characteristics are the most competitive applicants and therefore the ones most likely to be selected:

- Persons who have already demonstrated leadership qualities;
- Persons who have already shown a commitment to public service;
- Persons who have the potential to advance in their professional fields; and
- Persons involved in establishing and implementing policy (as distinguished from persons who only conduct research or who only perform technical functions).

Applications from women and persons who work at non-governmental organizations are encouraged.

In addition, researchers, treatment providers, prevention specialists, and public or private program planners in drug abuse prevention and treatment are encouraged to apply. The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) in the U.S. funds a limited number of Fellowships each year for such persons.

What kinds of people are not eligible?

The following are examples of persons who are **not** eligible for this program:

- Recent university undergraduates;
- University teachers with no management responsibilities;
- Persons who have attended a graduate school in the U.S. for one academic year or **more during the seven years prior to August 2016;**
- Persons who have spent more than six months in the U.S. during the five years prior

to August 2016; and

- Persons who are dual citizens of the U.S. and another country, or who have U.S. permanent resident status (e.g., who have a green card).

If I am eligible and meet the minimum requirements, how do I apply?

- You must complete a package of application materials. **Application is available on the U.S. Embassy web site <http://ouagadougou.usembassy.gov/> from December 01 2015, to January 29, 2016.**
- **Application forms must be completed and returned to the American Embassy, Service CAC by January 29, 2016.**

How does the competition work?

- **In February and March** candidates selected by the American Embassy will take the TELP test and will be interviewed. After the interviews, selected candidates to continue the competition will register for TOEFL that will be taken in Ouagadougou in **August 2016**. The finalists must also fill out the online application and provide additional application materials (letters of reference, degrees and academic transcripts (in French and English) **to the American Embassy by September 02, 2016.**
- **Only candidates who are likely to score at least 500 on the TOEFL test will be allowed to continue in the competition.**
- The Finalists from Burkina Faso then compete against applicants from other countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Eurasia. The winners will be announced between **mid-March and early April of 2017.**

What if I am not a citizen or permanent resident of Burkina Faso?

If you are not a citizen or permanent resident of Burkina Faso you cannot apply for this program through the U.S. Embassy in Ouagadougou. You should contact the Public Affairs Section in the U.S. Embassy in your home country to find out whether your country participates in this program, and, if so, how to apply.

When will I go to the United States if I am selected?

The current competition is for Fellowships starting in **August or early September of 2017** and finishing in the **spring of 2018**. Winning candidates who have a TOEFL score over 500 but less than 550 will generally be required to go to the U.S. **as early as March of 2017** for intensive English language study before the beginning of their academic year.

If I am selected can my spouse or children come with me to the U.S.?

No. The cost of living is very high in the U.S. and there is no funding to support anyone other than the person awarded the Fellowship. The program is also very intensive. In rare cases, a Humphrey Fellow may request permission for his or her dependents to come to the U.S. after the Fellow has arrived in the U.S. if the Fellow can show proof of adequate personal funds to cover the living expenses of the dependents including the cost of health insurance for them.

How do I get more information?

Application form is on our web site: <http://ouagadougou.usembassy.gov>

*If you have questions, the U.S. Embassy at Ouaga 2000, Ouagadougou will host information sessions every **Wednesday from 10:00 am to 11:00, beginning Wednesday, December 02, 2015 through January 27, 2016.** (For security reason, please be at the embassy before 9:30. Come with your identity card, cell phone and lap tops and electronic devices are not allowed in the embassy.)*